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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

by Archie P. McDonald

Each issue of the *Journal* contains as many reviews as page limitations and available reviewers permits. In an effort to acknowledge other fine books of potential interest to East Texas historians, additional publications are acknowledged in this section.

Sam Houston State University: An Institutional Memory, 1879-2004 (Texas Review Press, English Department, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77341), by Ty Cashion, tells the story of Texas' senior teacher preparation college. Sam Houston is now a full-service university, but it began 125 years ago as a "teacher's college" and served as the bellwether for a flock of similar institutions located throughout the state, including Stephen F. Austin State University. I know something of Ty's intensive labor to produce this anniversary edition in less than a year. To say that he succeeded in producing a commemorative volume of which his administration, colleagues, and the university's alumni can be proud is an understatement. More importantly, all of them can learn a great deal about their institution and its leadership role in the history of higher education in Texas. The volume contains an introduction by Dan Rather, Sam Houston's most distinguished alumnus, hundreds of photos supplied by Tom Seifert, and Cashion's excellent narrative. The book is dedicated, most appropriately, to Jim Olson, the long-time chairman of the university's department of history.

Slouching Toward Zion and More Lies, by Robert Flynn with Foreword by the Rev. Kyle Childress (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336), contains more of the kinds of essays found in Flynn's *Growing Up A Sullen Baptist and Other Lies*, published by the same press. Modern transparency rules requires me to disclose that I know Bob Flynn and think him the funniest theologian I know, the Rev. Childress is my pastor at Austin Heights Baptist Church, and I read this manuscript for the press and strongly recommended its publication—and that they get Kyle to write a Foreword. That said, you should accept my unbiased opinion that you will enjoy Flynn's good humor and theology. Baptists, particularly those with a sense of humor, will find essays that poke gentle fun at them. I hope Mormons and others saints mentioned herein have that same sense of humor. Good book.

We are a little late in noting the biennial publication of the *Texas Almanac, 2004-2005* (Dallas Morning News, Box 655237, Dallas TX 75265, \$19.95 hardback, \$13.95 paper), edited by Elizabeth Cruce Alvarez. This is the standard compendium of Texana data absolutely necessary as a desk companion for every Texas historian. In addition to the *Almanac's* standard statistical coverage of weather, population, elections, lists of officials, etc., this edition also contains special features on the frontier forts of Texas. As always, the *Almanac* is the handy reference if one wants to know the population of Smith County or how many voters put Governor Rick Perry in office. Now, lots of

people want to know that.

The First Texas Legion During The American Civil War, by Allen G. Hatley (Centex Press, Box 506, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434, \$31.95), contains the previously untold story of this Confederate regiment from Texas. Organized in 1861 and in service throughout the Civil War in that conflict's Western Theatre, the First's battle stars included Pca Ridge, Elkhorn Tavern, Iuka, Holly Springs, Spring Hill, Franklin, Vicksburg, and Atlanta. Despite the First's considerable service, Hatley says that it has never received the attention from historians it deserves, a situation he remedies with this study. Hatley, a retired law enforcement officer, previously has written about history of the Texas Rangers and is a frequent presenter at the Association's annual meetings.

Another Civil War study is *In The Saddle With The Texans: Day-By-Day With Parson's Cavalry Brigade, 1862-1865*, edited by Anne J. Bailey (McWhiney Foundation Press, McMurry University, Box 637, Abilene, TX 79697, \$29.95). McWhiney has become the leading publisher of military history in Texas and Bailey one of the rising historians of America's fratricidal conflict. The book concerns William Henry Parsons and his Confederate cavalry command, which operated in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Its seven chapters are organized into two sections: first, Bailey provides a narrative—Chapter 1 addresses activities between June 3 and October 29, 1862—followed a documents section, mainly composed of official orders and correspondence. There are no illustrations, but a roster of all the brigade's officers is a useful feature.

Another Civil War release, *Civil War and Revolution On The Rio Grande Frontier: A Narrative And Photographic History*, by Jerry Thompson and Lawrence T. Jones III (Texas State Historical Association, 2306 Sid Richardson Hall, University of Texas, Austin TX 78712-9820, \$39.95), offers a fine study of the border by the "dean" of historians on that subject. Thompson's essays on Session and Civil War, Bluecoats on the Rio Grande, Confederate Cavalry of the West, Long Road to Palmetto Ranch, Bloody Sieges and Border Raids, Imperial Dreams and Republican Triumphs, and Great Storm of 1867 and the End of an Era are accompanied by Jones' numerous photographs. The photos are presented with tint that gives a suggestion of color and nonetheless remains black-and-white. I don't like double-columned pages, but Thompson's narrative and Jones' illustrations are worth the effort.

Old Friend B.F. Hicks, tireless promoter of things historical in Mount Vernon and Franklin County, has edited and published *Dupree Park Nature Trail Guide* (Franklin County Historical Association, Box 289, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457), which provides a history of the Bankhead Highway and the Dupree Park Naure Preserve. The remainder of the pamphlet consists of illustrations and descriptions of plants found along the trail.

Art Guide Texas: Museums, Art Centers, Alternative Spaces & Nonprofit Galleries, by Rebecca S. Cohen (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, \$24.95), directs the arts inclined visitor to the arts centers of

Texas. The guide is organized by North Central, East, Upper Gulf Coast, South, Central, West, and Panhandle and Plains regions. For example, on pages 103-106, we find that the Museum of East Texas is located at 503 N. Second Street, and the telephone number is 936-639-4434, that the museum "presents changing exhibitions of contemporary regional art interspersed with historical exhibits and selections from its collection," and that the museum has a shop. There is a "Details" section which gives just that on the museum's origin and holdings, and the "Helpful Hint" that it is best to ask someone for directions to Lufkin's civic center, located directly across the street, than to the museum itself. Similar information is provided for more than 100 other arts centers.

George McGovern: A Political Life, A Political Legacy, edited by Robert P. Watson, with a foreword by former Senator Tom Daschle (South Dakota Historical Society, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217, \$19.95), is a tribute to one of South Dakota's distinguished senators and the Democratic nominee for president in 1972. Before then, McGovern flew combat missions in World War II and earned a Ph.D. in history. The book contains nine articles on as many aspects of McGovern's upbringing and public life by Robert P. Watson, Donald C. Simmons Jr., Michael J.C. Taylor, Valerie R. O'Regan and Stephen J. Stambough, Gary Aguiar, Ahrar Ahmd, Stephen K. Ward, Jon D. Schaff, Russell E. Willis, and Thomas J. Krock. Topics include McGovern's background in South Dakota, war experience, congressional service, and presidential race. Laurie Langland also compiled a time-line of McGovern's life.

The Johnson County War (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159 \$27.95), by Bill O'Neal, deals with a range war in Wyoming, but since it was written by Bill O'Neal, long-time anchor of history instruction at Panola College and a past president of ETHA, we are pleased to note its publication. O'Neal is an authority on many subjects—outlaws, baseball, movie actors, and all things Texan and Western, to name a few—so it hardly surprises that he is able to write about Wyoming.

Norfleet, by J. Frank Norfleet (Pelican Publishing Company, Box 3110, Gretna, Louisiana 70054, \$8.95), is the 30,000-mile odyssey of Norfleet, a Texas rancher, in tracking down five confidence men, or international swindlers. The trail led Norfleet to all of America's coasts, Canada, Mexico, and Cuba through the 1920s. A few illustrations provide the reader with an image of Norfleet and other characters in this story of pursuit.

Windmill Tales, edited by Coy F. Harris, photographs by Wyman Meinzer and an introduction by Steve Halladay (Texas Tech University Press, Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79410 \$37.50), was published for the American Wind Power Center. The book was printed in Korea, which is more evidence of globalization, and I wonder if the Korean printers thought these hundred or so color photos of windmills—and landscapes with windmills—as beautiful as did I? Each is accompanied with a brief interpretive caption, but the point of it all is the photos of the windmills. Enjoy.

Please Pass The Biscuits, Pappy, Pictures of Governor W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, by Bill Crawford with Introduction by John Anderson (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, \$\$29.95), pretty well discloses its content in its title. Obviously, this is a vehicle to present scores of photos of Governor O'Daniel, likely the most photographed chief executive of Texas before the explosion of media coverage that accompanied the advent of television. All are black-and-white, and each is accompanied by an explanatory paragraph in addition to the usual photo credits. Featured are photos of the governor with a great many legislators and local officials visited by O'Daniel in their homes or at least hometowns.

Caddo Verb Morphology, by Lynette R. Melnar (University of Nebraska Press, 233 North 8th St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0255, \$75.00), is a highly specialized book. I don't know anyone personally who speaks Caddo, certainly not historic Caddo, but a promotional blurb bills this study "the definitive description of what must be one of the world's most interesting polysynthetic morphologies." I had to consult the dictionary for the meaning of those last two words, so to say that I really understood what this book offers linguists, anthropologists, or Caddoes or those interested in their culture would be gross exaggeration. I can tell, however, that it is the yield of considerable thought, hard work, and language analysis, and so we are pleased to note its publication for the benefit of those interested in the early history of our region.